TIBETAN TELLS OF EUROPE

Continued from First Page.

Nicholas Cratzer, a famous German astronomer, who came over to England at the invitation of Cardinal Wolsey.

The clock tells the hour, the month, the day of the month, the position of the sun, and the number of days since the beginning of the year, the phases of the moon and its age, the hour at which it crosses the meridian and the time of high water at London Bridge. The winding of the timepiece takes half an hour every week. The weights descend to a depth of over sixty feet.

After the repairs are completed the clock will be rehung in its old position in the courtyard, where all visitors can see it though they cannot get near enough to study its astronomical records.

Sister Bessie Smythe, the pioneer nurse of wildest Africa, will return to England some time this year, and it is supposed she will have a remarkable tale to tell of her wanderings. It is nearly thirty years since she began her career at Kimberley and was graduated in her profession.

She was then a bright young Irish girl, keen, adventurous and hardy. In 1898, when a severe smallpox epidemic broke out in the Transvaal, it was she who took charge of the lazarette in Pretoria. She organized the wards and trained awkward Kaffirs as orderly boys. For four months she lived in that camp and saw the danger through.

Then came the war. She was in the fighting line at Kimberley and Boshof, and later she was put in charge of a hospital. When the war ended she took charge of the Government hospital at Mombassa, and after this set off unarmed, and only attended by occasional carriers picked up on the way, through northwest Rhodesia, across a corner of the Congo Free State and along the shores of Lake Tanganyika, till she came to the Victoria Nyanza, which she crossed in an Arab dhow. Everywhere she helped the savages and found them grateful and helpful in return.

The year 1906 saw Sister Bessie on the Gold Coast, which she left after the hospital closed for Liberia and San Thomé, after which she found herself at the scene of the Cape colonial whale fisheries. Here she became counsellor and friend of the Norse fishermen. A whaling ship recently landed her at Capetown. A woman who saw her on her arrival at that city describes her thus:

"Khaki clad from head to foot, her whole demeanor speaks of readiness and service. A strong, sweet face, framed in soft gray hair, gazes at you with the most understanding eyes you could meet—gray, Irish eyes, which twinkle with sudden humor as readily as they moisten with pitiful tears."

Some idea of the enormous wealth of the United Kingdom may be obtained from an official return just issued. It shows that during the twelve fiscal years 1897-08 to 1908-09 death duties to the amount of $1,055,208,450 were paid on 753,824 estates of the aggregate net capital value of $16,338,360,000, with an average income of $1,361,530,000 a year. The average value of these estates was $21,685 each.

The valuation for the first year of the period named, with 54,991 estates, was $1,236,710,000, and the average value of the estates was $22,500 each. The valuation of the last year was $1,854,815,000 for 76,524 estates, with an average of $20,060 each.

The largest total of net capital value in the twelve years period was reached in 1906-7, $1,492,300,000 for 66,082 estates, an average capital value of $22,575 each.

King Edward, who has been staying this week with Sir Arthur Sassoon at Brighton, finds his faithful lieges just a little trying in their royal curiosity. One woman, more enterprising than the others, hit upon the idea one evening of having a fainting fit on the doorstep of Sir Arthur Sassoon's house. She imagined that she would be taken inside, and in this way meet the King face to face. The plan worked out to a limited extent only. She fainted according to programme, but on the wrong doorstep. Her recovery was rapid when she discovered her mistake.

The other day the King was all but pushed into the gutter by an old sailor bent double under a load of fishing tackle who could not see the royal passerby. The King stepped off the sidewalk just in time to avoid a collision, and the old fellow, grumbling that surely there was room enough for two, shuffled on.

The year 1908 was not a good year for English trade unions, according to a report issued this week by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The report says that the total membership of the 634 unions making returns was 1,971,238, a decrease of 2,322; total income, $16,479,705, an increase of $1,799,230; total expenditure, $18,622,430, an increase of $6,722,745, as compared with the figures for the previous year.

The amount of funds at the end of the year was $29,980,160, or $15.10 a member. During the year forty trade unions were registered, and forty-nine dissolved or gave notice of termination.

A visitor at Davos has just made a complaint against women visitors at Swiss hotels. He declared that many of them are in the habit of using too many and too strong perfumes, and that this is a serious annoyance to other visitors. He is a consumptive and went to Davos for the cure, in which fresh air plays a prominent part, but he is unable to leave his hotel, and the "consequence is," he writes, "that since my arrival a fortnight ago I have not once breathed the mountain air, but only Oriental scents."

Hotel keepers at Davos and other health resorts in Switzerland say that this complaint is often made but that they are powerless to remedy the matter. Russian, German, Austrian and Italian women are the worst offenders. English, French and American visitors use only delicate scents if any. A hotel proprietor gave a special instance of his way of menaging this delicate matter.

"A wealthy Bulgarian lady," he said, "comes to my hotel every year, and always she stays two and sometimes three months.

"Her favorite scent is pure attar of roses and she is very generous in her use of it. Nobody will sit near her in the public rooms.

"So that my other guests may not be always coming to me and complaining I let her have a special sitting room free of cost and always arrange to place her at a little table in the corner of the restaurant. All the same I get complaints."

The superstition regarding the evil eye has found its German historian in Dr. S. Seligman of Berlin, who pursues the belief to the furthest recesses of recorded time and among all the nations of the world. So ancient and widespread is it that it flourished among the earliest Chaldeans, Indians, Persians and Egyptians; is found in the tales of Arabia and the Jews, was recognized by Greeks and Romans and was as firmly believed in by the Laplander as by the Chinaman and the people of Tibet.

The possessor of the evil eye exercises his influence in one of two ways: either consciously or unconsciously. In the former case he acts with the help of suggestion, thus fascinating the victim; in the latter he is born with the faculty or in some mysterious way acquires it.

The belief is universal that the possessor of the evil eye can exercise its baneful powers even when he is asleep, that a blind person may have the faculty, and that in other cases while one eye is natural and innocuous the other may be dangerous or deadly.

Another part of the belief is that animals may possess it, only with the restriction that its rays can harm only what is fit for food. The quality has been attributed even to inanimate objects, such as stone statues, and the eyes in the peacock's tail. How, asks Dr. Seligman, is the existence of the superstition to be accounted for? His reply is that the false conceptions of our early ancestors in regard to the anatomy, physiology and physics of the eyes of both man and beast led to the conclusion that the eye is the seat of the soul, and in ccertain mysterious cases possesses powers of the soul of which mankind in general has no knowledge or suspicion.

The French old age pensions scheme, the bill for which has just passed its first reading in the Senate, follows the Prussian rather than the English measure. As in Prussia, it is contributory and compulsory, workmen and employers contributing an equal amount annually.

Men are to pay $1.80, women $1.20, and persons under 18 90 cents yearly until their sixty-fifth year, when they will become entitled to a pension, which will be paid from the total contributions plus the employers' quota and a sum of $12 a year paid by the State. The conditions for receiving the full pension are that the worker shall have contributed to the fund for thirty years, including in the case of men the two years of military service. Those who have contributed for more than ten years and less than thirty will be entitled to a reduced pension.

Existing friendly societies which may be taken into the scheme will be authorized to collect old age contributions from their members. They will receive from the State a contribution of 30 cents a head for sickness and insurance, plus an additional sum to cover expenses.

The working classes in France are estimated to number 11,000,000. The Government has agreed with the opposition so far as to restrict the principle of compulsory contribution to town and rural wageearners, otherwise workmen in the ordinary sense of this term, and to make contribution optional to the large class of small farmers, petty landowners and part profit cultivators (métayers), all of whom are laborers in reality. If they do not contribute they cannot benefit by the pensions scheme. These rural classes are computed at 6,000,000 in number.

Forty years hence, when the scheme is in full operation, the pensioners will have $83 a year. They will start the year after the bill is passed with $20.40 a year, the pension to rise gradually during the interval.

The chief newspapers on the Government side predict that early in April the bill will become law, and will be regarded as the greatest achievement of the Third Republic; but a great many prominent politicians are not so optimistic. Many Senators have voted for the second reading of the bill for no other reason than getting a better opportunity of making a more systematic and concentrated attack on the compulsory clauses.

Next to the story of the Italian village crowd who hissed the Comet 1910 A because it obstinately refused to appear from behind a cloud bank, and who clapped their hands vigorously when at last it became visible, must be placed on record a formal written complaint handed in by a night watchman at Goedello, Hungary, to the local Magistrate. The man's grievance was that the comet interfered with the proper discharge of his duty as a watchman at night. In his own words:

"The news of the appearance of the comet has plunged everybody in the neighborhood into great consternation, and the people, driven mad, run about the streets all night. Therefore I must request the Minister of the Interior to be so kind as to ask the Meteorological Bureau to have the goodness to remove this dangerous comet from the neighborhood of Hungary."

M. Geacks, an imitator of animal cries, is by no means the least important member of the company which is presenting "Chantecler" in Paris. He remains in the wings all through the play, giving the cries of the various animals as necessity arises.

Guitry, who takes the part of *Chantecler*, is said to be able to produce a cock crow which cannot be distinguished from the real thing. The efforts to reduce the strident crow of the cock to vowels and consonants has met with varying results in different languages. For instance in English it is "cock-a-doodle-do." in French "cocorico," in Germany "kikiriki" and in Dutch "kukeluku."

Following upon the case of Alban Rushbrook, the ossified man, comes the case of the marble man. The patient, Morgan Field, has developed an appearance of white marble in the skin of his hands, feet, chest and face.

Four years ago Field was incapacitated for six months by a severe attack of pneumonia. Shortly afterward his skin became marble white, devoid of expression, the natural lines of the skin having been obliterated, feeling stone cold to the touch and looking like the skin of a dead man. The skin has become so tight around the joints that he is unable to bend them and he can open his mouth with difficulty. The condition is thought to be due to an obstruction in the arteries, veins or lymph vessels, dependent upon some disturbance in the vaso motor nervous centre.

Dr. George Lomer, a German medical authority, is about to publish a book dealing with the rapid growth of Jewish influence in Germany. "The Germans must absorb the Jews," he declares, "otherwise the Jews will dominate the country."

Dr. Lomer begins by pointing out the superiority of the Jew in all professions in which brain power tells. One-ninth of the Roman Catholic children of Berlin attend the higher grade schools, one-seventh of the Protestant children also attend these schools, but not less than two-thirds of the Jewish children of the German capital receive the higher education. Throughout Germany the Jews form little more than 1 per cent. of the total population, but 20 per cent. of the children in the high grade schools of the country are Jews. In the high grade schools of Berlin and other great cities the percentage of Jewish children is still higher, reaching 30, 40 and 50 per cent.

The same predominance of the Jews is evident at the German universities. Among the Roman Catholics 13 in 10,000 and among the Protestants 25 in 10,000 receive a university education, but among the Jews no fewer than 160 in 10,000 receive academic training.

More than half the doctors and lawyers in Berlin are Jews and the same numerical predominance can be noticed in most great German cities. The Jews predominate also as university professors, as teachers, as newspaper men, as artists and architects—in short in all brain work professions.

What, asks Dr. Lomer, are the causes of the superiority of the Jews to the men of Germanic race in these important respects? He replies to this question by pointing out that the Jews are above everything a vast united family who stand by one another and always seek to promote Jewish interests first and foremost. Thus a Jewish doctor will always send his patients to a sanitarium kept by a Jew or a chemist of the Jewish race. A Jewish professor sends his clients to another Jew.

Dr. Lomer, who is himself a gentile, professes to be alarmed by the growing influence of the Jews. He recommends the absorption of the Jew by intermarriage. Then will the German race become a combination of all the best qualities of humanity. Jew and Teuton combined will rear a new and magnificent race fit to control the destinies of the world.

Sir Robert Ball, professor of astronomy at Cambridge University, does not share the alarmist views of Camille Flammarion, the French astronomer, and others with regard to the result of a collision between the earth and Halley's comet. He has received multitudes of letters on the subject, and this is the reply he has sent to one anxious inquirer:

"A rhinoceros in full charge would not fear collision with a cobweb, and the earth need not fear collision with a comet.

"In 1861 we passed through the tail of a comet, and no one knew anything about it at the time.

"For a hundred million years life has been continuous on this earth, though we have been visited by at least five comets every year. If comets could ever have done the earth any harm they would have done it long ago and you and I would not be disucssing comets or anything else.

"I hope this letter will give you the assurance you want. So far as I can learn we may be in the tail of Halley about May 12, and I sincerely hope we shall.

"I think Sir John Herschel said somewhere that the whole comet could be squeezed into a portmanteau."

The German-American tariff agreement has been a life and death matter for the 70,000 Germans who make a living out of the toy trade. America and Great Britain together take more than two-thirds of the entire toy production of the empire, the value of which amounted last year to $22,500,000, as compared with over $25,000,000 the previous year.

From Nuremberg and the neighboring town of Furth come most of the tin toys; Sonneberg, in Saxe-Meiningen, produces immense quantities of dolls and papier maché articles, while carved wood toys are chiefly made in Saxony. The Chamber of Commerce at Sonneberg reports in its review of the toy industry for 1909 that for the first time since the American crisis of 1893 a decline has been noted in the total production and exports of toys, the chief cause of which is said to be a falling of in the demand from the United States.

Robert Burns in his time wrote a well remembered poem in which he consigned the excise man to regions infernal and got into trouble over it in much the same way as a band of masqueraders at the Cologne carnival the other day.

From one of the cars in the procession pamphlets were thrown among the crowd in which the new liquor duties were ridiculed in doggerel running something like this: "Agrarian Junkers who distil the Schnapps are pleased to find the money flowing in their till; the plain man's left behind. His glass of beer now costs him more, he finds he's got to pay; the devil take the excise man and fly with him away."

The German police even in carnival time do not permit a joke at those in high authority, and they arrested the occupants of the car on the ground that the malediction on the excise man was an insult to the Minister who introduced the liquor taxes. The masqueraders argued that nothing was further from their minds and that they only meant the devil to fly away with those who actually collected the tax

The difference is subtle, but it secured the merrymakers their liberty. Thus as the *Frankfurter Zeitung* points out, German bureaucracy has decreed that the evil one must not touch a person of so high standing as a Minister but can do as he likes with smaller fry.

With the object of showing the consequences of intermarriage where a suicidal taint exists and the necessity for imposing some restraint the *Mendel Journal*, the organ of the Mendel Society, gives an instance of the development of suicidal mania through four or five generations.

Two families lived in the same village and the tradition is that one family was addicted to suicide by drowning and the other by shooting. The tradition is traced back at least five generations but the actual records of the first generation were not kept.

In the second generation one individual committed suicide by drowning, and in the shooting family there was a case of suicide by shooting. Of that generation a member of the shooting family married one of the drowning family, and of the issue of the marriage one person committed suicide by shooting and another by drowning. There were two normal members of the two families who married, making what is called a cousin marriage. Of the offspring of this union—being the fourth generation in order—one was insane, with suicidal mania, and is still living; two brothers drowned themselves, a fourth poisoned himself, a fifth shot himself and a sixth poisoned himself. A seventh was insane, with suicidal mania, and there are three other normal members of the family who are still living.

The suicidal mania persisted in other branches of what is called the shooting family, and in one of these branches in the third generation there was a member who shot himself. His son also committed suicide in the same way and a third was insane, with suicidal mania. Two sisters were normal, but in the next and present generation all the offspring have had suicidal mania.

Dr. Nogier of Lyons, France, has been experimenting with the mercury vapor lamp, finding that the ultra-violet rays emitted from it are very powerful in destroying bacteria in limpid liquids, especially water. He has succeeded in removing the most virulent germs from drinking water without altering its chemical composition. One minute's exposure to the rays of the lamp suffices for the process of sterilization.

Dr. Nogier has now perfected an automatic water sterilizer, consisting of an aluminum tube containing a mercury vapor lamp and controlled by an electromagnetic faucet which at once stops the flow of water should the lamp be put out of action. This method of sterilizing drinking water is said to be much better and cheaper than the electro-ozone process.

The stockholders of La Scala at Milan have decided to give up the management of the opera house after the present season, as they find it impossible to run the opera house at a profit. The last two seasons closed with deficits of $5,200 and $54,316, and it is estimated that the present season's deficit will amount to at least $15,400.

The management of La Scala has never been profitable. Twelve years ago the theatre was managed by the municipality and it was such a financial failure that it was handed over willingly to a private company composed of fifteen shareholders. Despite the fact that the contributions of subscribers and the municipal subvention then amounted together to $62,000 a year, $40,000 was lost by the management during the first five years. In 1907 the president of the company, the Duke Visconti di Modrone, died, and was succeeded in the management of the theatre by his son. The shareholders decided to continue managing La Scala for three years more in the hope that the undertaking would prove more profitable. The three years expires in a few months, when the theatre will be closed unless the municipality decides to increase the yearly subvention to $40,000. The Duke Visconti ascribes the crisis to the high salaries of singers, increased expenditures for illuminating and staging and last but not least the keen competition of other Milanese theatres.

In reports of proceedings of the House of Commons the phrase "said the Speaker took the chair" is usually met with. It is a curious fact that in the earlier days of Parliament the Speaker literally annexed his chair of office, it was part of his perquisites and a new chair was always provided for the opening of Parliament.

A mere utilitarian age is less lavish with furniture, and the Speaker's chair a session no longer figures in the estimates. Speaker Onslow carried off a reasonable roomful of them in the course of his terms of office from 1727 to 1761, and his descendant, Lord Onslow, still has them to show at Clandon.

Kilmainham jail, which played a prominent part in the stormy days of Irish politics, has been opened as a Government Certified Home for Female Inebriates. It was the incarceration of Mr. Parnell there in 1881 that led up to the negotiations known as the Kilmainham treaty, though Mr. Gladstone, by the way, always denied that there was one.

When Irish politics became less strenuous Kilmainham was nearly always empty, and lately it ceased to be a criminal prison. The Sisters of St. John, who now manage it, have renamed it St. Brigid's House, and have spent $50,000 in transforming the cells into comfortable rooms, and in generally making it less forbidding in appearance.

The tercentenary of the Charterhouse School is shortly to be commemorated, and graduates all over the world, to the number of 3,600, have been asked to send in their views on the subject. The governors of Charterhouse have included many of the famous men of their day. Beaconsfield, Gladstone, Lord John Russell, Palmerston, Pitt and Walpole have been some Prime Ministers who have been connected with the school.

Gen. Monk was a governor, as was Lord Anson, the circumnavigator, though perhaps the most famous governor of all was Oliver Cromwell. To-day there are only sixty-five brothers or pensioners at Charterhouse, those brothers immortalized by Thackeray. These pensioners are gentlemen, who have lost their incomes, and they are provided for by the bequest left by a notable soldier of Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Sutton, Master of Ordnance in the North. The money is derived from land in Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire and Essex, but owing to the great depreciation in land that has taken place of late the money suffices only for sixty-five pensioners instead of eighty. The pensioners are called brothers, and they have their rooms, food and attendance free, and are given $175 a year in addition.

The great qualification is that the applicant must have been a gentleman in the full sense of the word. The foundation is eligible to gentlemen who have reached the age of 80 and are either unmarried or are widowers. Maddison Morton, who wrote "Box and Cox," was a brother, and it is recalled a former Lord Mayor of London came to accept the benefits of Sutton's bequest.

According to the report of the London County Council's asylums committee there are signs that the increase of lunacy that has been going on of late years in London has reached its climax. The total number of lunatics in London county asylums, or in other asylums under contract with the boards of guardians, and of lunatics in workhouses or with relatives and friends is 26,386, as against a total of 26,293 on January 1, 1909, an increase of only 93.

This is the smallest increase recorded since 1901, but dealing only with the number of lunatics for whom the County of London is responsible to find accommodation, the total on January 1 last was 19,919, as against 19,716 on January 1, 1909, an increase of only 203, the lowest since 1892.

It is thought that the apparent increase of lunacy of late years has been due to the fact that there has been great activity in seeing that every person of unsound mind is properly cared for. The chief factor in causing a "rush to the asylums" in the last three or four decades, said an asylum official, was the improvement in the "equipment," comfort, &c., of the asylums, while the relatives felt a sense of relief at the removal of responsibility from their own homes. Then again cases of senile dementia which were formerly treated at home have of late been sent more and more to workhouses, and the official when he has discovered any defect of mind or conduct has drafted the cases to asylums.

Possibly, continued the official, the diminution in the rate of increase of lunacy, to which attention is now being drawn, may be due to the system of registration approaching completion and to the operation of the other factor referred to. On the other hand, it may be merely an incidental diminution. It remains for future years to prove whether the present statistics mean anything.

During a run of the Gedworth foxhounds recently the fox in order to escape from the hounds jumped down a 30 foot well, and it is presumed that he committed suicide. After being told the story an official of the Zoological Society said that no animal ever intentionally ends its life.

"I can only recall two creatures," he said, "who are supposed to commit suicide, and they are the scorpion and the wasp. I have never quite satisfied myself as to these creatures. They both appear to kill themselves by their own stings, but I have always thought the death was accidental."

Arrested for Sneezing.

From the Queen.

The most silent town in Europe is (or rather was until recently) not Bruges apparently, but Driesen-Vordamm, in Brandenburg. Here the municipal regulation with regard to street noises are so strict that a visitor a short while ago was fined five marks for sneezing out of doors. The stranger refused to pay, and though assured that this small fee saved him from the properly deserved punishment of prison, remained unmoved by the expression of generosity and preferred to argue the matter out in the local courts. He was eventually acquitted, but since the verdict the head of the police of Driesen-Vordamm refuses to answer for order in the streets of that locality.

BUNCO GAMES IN MEXICO.

Rogues Who Could Pick Even the Great Pinkerton's Pocket.

More ingenious rogues than the rateros of Mexico city have yet to be bred, says a writer in the *Travel Magazine*. The great Pinkerton himself fell a victim to their skill. He had shown some scepticism over the wonderful tales he heard concerning these gentry and the Mexican chief of police felt that it was up to him to make good.

The chief had a private interview with a certain pickpocket who at the moment wasn't wanted in the usual manner. The result was that the ratero before night brought a handsome gold watch and laid it on the official desk. Half an hour later Pinkerton himself came in, sheepish but convinced.

Imagine a porter constantly at your side carrying your valise to the depot and you are watching him too. Then, after the train starts, you find your grip neatly slit open by a sharp knife and all your shirts taken out. You cannot tell how the fellow managed it, for he not only slipped the garments out under your eyes but hid the stiff, awkward things under his jacket in the bargain. Yet this is an amateur's achievement.

It has become unsafe to deliver anything to a stranger in the city of Mexico without a personal order with some secret mark on it. These rascals have been known to empty a furnished house in broad daylight under the servants' eyes while, say, the family was away on a day's picnic. They will duplicate the stationery of business houses and in some way learn that such and such a bill is to be collected at a given time, or that such or such a party is to deliver certain goods by previous arrangement. They then present the duplicate bill or order and so come in for the booty.

There is one trick particularly that has become classical. A citizen one morning met a friend on his way to business. He stopped to invite the friend to a dinner party for the following evening. The two talked for a while there in the street when the citizen remarked that it must be getting late.

He felt in his pocket, but his watch was not there.

"You'll have to tell me the time," he said, "I've left my watch under my pillow again."

An hour later a well dressed man pulled the knocker at the citizen's door and asked for the citizen's wife. When she came to the door he introduced himself as a business friend of her husband. He had taken the liberty, he said, to send for a fine turkey from his ranch, which he begged her to accept for the supper party of the evening following; and there, sure enough, was the well dressed man's servant holding a plump gobbler. The citizen's wife was greatly pleased and accepted the gift. The well dressed man begged her not to mention it, and with the usual compliments he was turning away when, happening to remember something, he said:

"Oh, yes, Mr. —— forgot his watch this morning, but I might as well take it to him. It's under the pillow," he said.

"The citizen's wife hurried up stairs, and there indeed she found the watch under the pillow and gave it to the accommodating stranger.

That evening the citizen on his return home was provoked when he heard the story, as you may imagine. He was out a watch, but at least it had cost the ratero the investment of a fine turkey. They would have that turkey for the dinner party just the same. He would tell the joke to his friends as they ate the bird; and the next evening he began relating the jest as soon as his guests arrived.

"But," interrupted his wife, "the police caught the fellow, you know."

"Caught him?" repeated her husband.

"Why of course," she said, "and you yourself sent up a man from the police court to-day. He wanted the turkey as evidence."

"And you gave it to him?"

"To be sure I did."

The ratero had got back his original investment.

SPANISH RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Meagre and Poorly Run, It Is in Need of American Methods.

Spanish railways had a total length in 1907 of 9,104 miles, but only about 6,210 miles of this amount can be regarded as standard railway. That figure therefore represents approximately the present Spanish railway mileage.

The lines all belong to private companies but have been constructed in part by subvention from the Government, so that as in France they are to revert to the state in ninety-nine years.

When new lines are undertaken the concession goes to the company which bids for the smallest subvention. The total amount of subvention contributed by the State up to 1896 was reported to be about 800,000,000 francs.

The gauge is different from that of the French lines for obvious strategic reasons. In addition to the standard gauge lines there are about 2,500 miles of narrow gauge roads in the country.

About 70 per cent. of the private capital invested in Spanish railways is foreign, much of it French; and accordingly several of the principal companies have their financial headquarters in Paris. A still larger proportion of the capital of the tramways and narrow gauge lines throughout the country is foreign.

While there are some fairly good lines in Spain, as for example those in particular connecting Madrid with Paris and Barcelona with Madrid, the lines upon the whole, says *Moody's Magazine*, are badly constructed and poorly and indifferently operated. The foreign capital, however, takes fairly good care of itself, the operation being generally profitable. Upon the other hand the commerce and industry of the country are crippled by the insufficiency and inefficiency of the railway system.

Much additional mileage is needed to bring Spain up to the average of other countries in western Europe. Whether or not, as the Chicago man said after our late war with Spain, it would then have been well for the Spaniards to make Phil Armour king, there can be no sort of question that what the Spanish railways now need is a Harriman.